

Message Text

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SUBJ: UNDP/UNCDF PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR 1976

1. SUMMARY: UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR 1976 HELD NEW YORK NOVEMBER 5. PLEDGES ANNOUNCED OR ANTICIPATED TO UNDP TOTAL \$451.7 MILLION, OR 11 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1975. PLEDGES TO UNCDF TOTAL \$8.3 MILLION. PLEDGES BY OPEC COUNTRIES CONTINUED TO BE MINISCULE IN ABSOLUTE TERMS BUT REPRESENTED A 16.9 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1975, LARGELY DUE TO A 150 PERCENT INCREASE BY NIERIA, AND 66 PERCENT INCREASE BY SAUDI ARABIA. END SUMMARY.

2. PLEDGES TOTALING APPROXIMATELY THE QUIVALENT OF \$314,600,000 WERE MADE NOVEMBER 5 TOWARD THE 1976
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OPERATIONS OF THE UNDP BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF 106

COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, 27 GOVERNMENTS PLEDGED \$8,300,000 TOWARD THE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND. IN ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE, UNDP ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON ESTIMATED THAT PLEDGES TOTALING AT LEAST \$137,100,000 WOULD BE MADE IN DUE COURSE BY GOVERNMENTS WHICH WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO ANNOUNCE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS NOW. THUS, THE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1976 WERE EXPECTED TO AMOUNT TO THE EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT \$451,700,000, AN INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 11 PERCENT OVER THE PLEDGES FOR 1975. PETERSON SAID THAT THE PRESENT UNDP FINANCIAL POSITION WAS SERIOUS BECAUSE OF INFLATION, INCREASED DELIVERIES, AND A DOWNWARD REVISION IN EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MAJOR DONORS. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE AMOUNT OF UNPAID CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PAST YEARS WAS SERIOUS. IN AN OPENING STATEMENT, SYG WALDHEIM CALLED FOR A RENEWED FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO UNDP AND CDF BY ALL COUNTRIES AND PAID A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO PETERSON FOR HIS "UNTIRING EFFORTS" AND WISHED HIM "ALL THE BEST FOR THE FUTURE."

3. A TOTAL OF 48 GOVERNMENTS ANNOUNCED HIGHER PLEDGES FOR 1976 THAN 1975 WITH 31 GOVERNMENTS INCREASING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS BY AT LEAST 15 PERCENT. AMONG THE LARGE CONTRIBUTORS WERE: SWEDEN--EQUIVALENT OF APPROXIMATELY \$48,000,000; NETHERLANDS--\$44,400,000; DENMARK--\$39,500,000; FRG--\$30,980,392; CANADA--\$29,000,000; NORWAY--\$21,400,000; AND BELGIUM--\$9,402,564. AMB MYERSON SAID USG WAS UNABLE TO ANNOUNCE A SPECIFIC PLEDGE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WAS STILL PENDING ON VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN PROGRAMS; HOWEVER, PRESIDENT FORD HAD ASKED CONGRESS TO APPROVE A SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED AMOUNT. (TEXT OF US DEL STATEMENT BY SEPTTEL.) JAPAN, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA ALSO STATED THEY WERE UNABLE TO ANNOUNCE A SPECIFIC PLEDGE AT THIS TIME.

4. OTHER PLEDGES - IN ADDITION TO THE PLEDGES ANNOUNCED FOR UNDP AND UNCDF, THREE GOVERNMENTS (NORWAY, BELGIUM AND CANADA) PLEDGED \$2.8 MILLION EARMARKED FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES; THE NETHERLANDS ANNOUNCED AN ADDITIONAL \$400,000 PLEDGE TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES REVOLVING FUND, AND BELGIUM ANNOUNCED A \$100,000 EARMARKED PLEDGE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TRUST FUND FOR COLONIAL PEOPLES.

5. OPEC PLEDGES - WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS OPEC PLEDGES WERE ONCE AGAIN DISAPPOINTING AND SERVE TO POINT UP THE FACT THAT TRADITIONAL UN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNDP HAVE YET TO BECOME CHOSEN INSTRUMENTS FOR ANY RESPECTABLE, LET ALONE MAJOR, PORTION OF THEIR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO OTHER LDCS. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE--NIGERIA INCREASED ITS PLEDGE FROM

\$300,000 TO \$700,000--UP 150 PERCENT. SAUDI ARABIA INCREASED ITS PLEDGE FROM 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS TO 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS UP 66 PERCENT; AND INDONESIA INCREASED ITS PLEDGE FROM \$360,000 TO \$460,000-- UP 25 PERCENT. HOWEVER, THE 1976 PLEDGES LEVELS ANNOUNCED BY QATAR, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, VENEZUELA, ECUADOR, IRAN, IRAQ REMAINED AT THE SAME LOW LEVEL AS IN 1975. THE INCREASES--FROM LOW BASE LEVELS-- BY ALGERIA (10 PERCENT), KUWAIT (25 PERCENT) WERE ABOUT EQUALLY DISCOURAGING.

6. CHINA - AFTER MAKING NO PLEDGE A YEAR AGO (BECAUSE UNDP HAD NOT YET FOUND A WAY TO UTILIZE ANY OF THE PREVIOUS CHINESE PLEDGED MONIES IN A WAY THAT SATISFIED THE CHINESE) CHINA MADE A NEW PLEDGE FOR 1976 OF 4.4 MILLION YUAN (\$2.2 MILLION) BECAUSE UNDP HAD NOW MADE AT LEAST SOME LIMITED PROGRESS IN BEGINNING TO UTILIZE THE PREVIOUS CHINA CONTRIBUTION.

7. THE USSR AND SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES. GENERALLY ALL OF THESE COUNTRIES ANNOUNCED TOKEN INCREASES BUT WITH 75 PERCENT TO 90 PERCENT OF THEIR PLEDGES CONTINUING TO BE MADE, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, IN LOCAL, NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY. IN A LOW KEY MANNER ALMOST EVERYONE OF THEM ALSO STATED THEIR REGRET THAT THEY WERE NOT USED FAR MORE THAN AT PRESENT AS THE SITE FOR UNDP FINANCED SEMINARS, PARTICIPANT TRAINING, ETC., AND AS THE SOURCE OF MORE UNDP FINANCED TECHNICAL EXPERTS, EQUIPMENT, AND SUB-CONTRACTS. AGAIN IN A LOW KEY MANNER, MOST OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES PLUS CANADA, FOLLOWED UP ON THE RECENT UK CRITICISM IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE (SEE USUN 5580 AND USUN -1368) THAT ALL DONOR COUNTRIES SHOULD STRIVE TO MAKE A FAR HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNDP IN CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES.

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8. A COMPLETE SET OF THE DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION FACT SHEETS PRODUCED BY UNDP ON THE RESULTS OF THE PLEDGING CONFERENCE WILL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED BY USUN.
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